



Dear St. Alphonsus & St. Patrick's School Families

This letter is regarding the annual charitable Christmas collection that we have at our school. For those of you that are not familiar with this initiative, it is a wonderful project that we have been participating in for many years. Each Christmas we take a collection of gifts and monetary donations that we use to buy needed items for less fortunate families in our community. Typically we collect for one family per class and are provided with the gender and sizes and age of each family member and items that they are in particular need of.

This year we will once again be working with Terri O'Neill of Hope & Friendship Ministries to help families in the Lemont community. The project will be managed by one chair person and the teachers, together with their room parents, will be responsible for the monetary and gift collections in each individual classroom.

This year we are also trying something new! In the front of the school will be a Christmas tree with tags on it for each of the adults for whom we will be buying. The tags will have information about the individual, like male or female, the item that they are in need of and the size. Also on this tree will be tags with common household items listed on them. Items such as laundry detergent, dish soap, body soap, tooth brushes and tooth paste will be listed on these tags. Parents are welcome to take one or more tags off of this tree.

Our goals are to purchase the needed items on each family list as well as provide them with enough food for Christmas dinner and a toy or two for each of the children.

Your room parents will be sending you a letter with the information regarding the family being "adopted" by your child(ren)s classroom. That letter will include the sex, size and specific requests of each family member. If you choose to purchase an item from this list we ask that you fill out the form on the bottom of the letter so that room parents can keep track of purchases in an effort to avoid duplicates as well as to be certain that there is not an overabundance of gifts for one family member over another, especially the children.

After the gifts are purchased and returned to the classroom, the children, teachers and room parents will organize them into groups and wrap the gifts. Each classroom will have a deadline for the return of the gifts so please refer to the letter from your room parents for specific information regarding your child's classroom schedule. On Thursday, December 22nd, the gifts will be moved to the gym where they will be organized for delivery and the entire student body will participate in a prayer service, asking God's blessings on the gifts and the families for whom they have been purchased.

Please remember that it is NOT mandatory to participate in this project.

God Bless You!

.....whatever you may do, do all for the honor and glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:30